GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:57
ANSWERED ON:15.11.2007
LOSSES DUE TO DELAY OF FLIGHTS
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether delay of flights particularly during winters has become an order of the day;

(b) if so, the amount lost due to delay to flights annually; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to avoid such delays in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a): Delay of flights is caused due to number of factors and fog is one such factor in the Northern parts of India during winters. The delay at one station is also likely to lead to consequential delays at other stations.

(b): Airlines do not maintain separate records of incremental expenses due to delay of flights.

(c): The steps taken by the Government to avoid delays on account of fog are as under:-

(i) At Delhi airport, CAT-IIB ILS system has been commissioned which permits operations of aircraft upto a runway visual range of 50 meters.

(ii) Airlines are advised to train their pilots on CAT-IIIB ILS system and to roster the CAT-IIIB pilots on the fog affected sectors.

(iii) Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (ASMGCS) along with Surface Movement Radar (SMR) has been implemented at Delhi airport. During periods of fog, ASMGCS and SMR help in maintaining surveillance of aircraft and vehicles on ground, to ensure greater safety of flight operations.

(iv) At Kolkata airport, CAT-II ILS system has been commissioned, which permits operations upto a runway visual range (RVR) of 350 meters.

(v) At Amritsar, Jaipur and Lucknow airports, CAT-II ILS system is being installed.

(vi) National Aviation Company of India Limited makes every effort to schedule its flights during winter months so as to minimize delays due to fog. It also rosters operating crew trained on CAT II/III systems to operate such flights so that they can land/take off even in poor visibility conditions.